

RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

October 2019

*A monthly bulletin facilitated by your membership of the **Rural Services Network** highlighting a selection of current funding opportunities*

5G Rural Connected Communities Project – Dept for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The Rural Connected Communities (RCC) competition will fund up to 10 5G research and development projects to run over the course of two years.

These projects will trial innovative use cases and technical solutions to build the business case for investment in rural connectivity and explore the capabilities of 5G to benefit rural communities. They will also help demonstrate demand from a variety of economic sectors and rural communities for 5G technologies.

Connectivity applications are expected to show a combination of societal and economic benefits that will together create a stronger case for investing in the deployment of 5G infrastructure for rural areas.

This competition is open to applications from consortia from across the UK. Consortia are likely to consist of a mixture of organisations including the public, private and third sectors, and academia.

The competition closes on 25 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-for-the-5g-rural-connected-communities-project>

Grant schemes for electric vehicle charging infrastructure – Office for Low Emission Vehicles

The government offers grants to support the wider use of electric and hybrid vehicles via the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). This includes:

- The Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme (EVHS) provides grant funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing electric vehicle chargepoints at domestic properties across the UK.
- The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge-points, for eligible businesses, charities and public sector organisations.
- The On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) provides grant funding for local authorities towards the cost of installing on-street residential chargepoints for plug-in electric vehicles.

For more information visit the website below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>

Housing First Programme – The Henry Smith Charity

The Housing First Programme is a focused grants programme supporting small to medium sized organisations (between £100K and £5m annual income) to deliver Housing First services.

Housing First offers stable, affordable housing alongside ongoing, intensive person-centred support to enable people to keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness. Services help people with significant multiple and enduring needs – those for whom other services have failed and homelessness is a long-term enduring issue.

This programme is accepting proposals from organisations currently delivering Housing First services to increase provision and enable services to become more sustainable and effective. They are also open to applications from organisations planning to deliver a Housing First service for the first time. Through these grants they want to help people experiencing multiple and complex needs to leave homelessness behind for good.

Grants are available from £200,000 to £400,000. The closing date for expressions of interest is 4 November 2019.

<https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/explore-our-grants-and-apply/strategic-grants-housing-first-grants-programme/strategic-grants-housing-first-grants-programme-overview/>

Local Grants Programme – Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Under the Armed Forces Covenant Local Grants programme, grants are available of up to £20,000 for local projects that support community integration or local delivery of services. Community Integration projects should create strong local links between the Armed Forces community, who are current and former members of their armed forces and their families, and civilian communities; Delivery of Local Services projects should be local projects which offer financial advice, housing, mental and physical health, employability or social support for serving armed forces personnel, veterans, and their families.

The deadline for applications is 9 December 2019, although applications are encouraged earlier.

<https://www.covenantfund.org.uk/local-grants-and-digital-development-programme/>

Community Business Grants – Power to Change

Cash grants worth between £50,000 and £300,000 will be made to community businesses across England through the eighth round of Power to Change's Community Business Fund.

From farms to libraries, canal moorings to cinemas, the Community Business Fund supports a wide range of community businesses, which all operate in a way that delivers positive social impact.

The fund opened on 11 September 2019 and community businesses have until midday on 9 October 2019 to apply. Grant awards will be made to the successful organisations from January 2020.

<https://www.powertochange.org.uk/get-support/programmes/community-business-fund/>

Rural Community Energy Fund – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is a £10 million programme which supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects, which provide economic and social benefits to the community.

RCEF provides support to rural communities in 2 stages:

- stage 1: grants of up to £40,000 for a feasibility study for a renewable energy project
- stage 2: grants of up to £100,000 for business development and planning of feasible schemes

RCEF is being run by 5 regional Local Energy Hubs. If you would like to register your interest for the scheme, or would like further information, please contact the relevant hub for your area.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-community-energy-fund>

Farming Recovery Fund (summer flooding) – Dept for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

A £2 million fund to help farmers affected by summer flooding opened for applications 20 September 2019.

Through the Farming Recovery Fund, farmers in parts of North Yorkshire and Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, who have suffered uninsurable damage to their property can now apply for grants between £500 and £25,000 to cover a number of repair costs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defra-opens-2-million-fund-to-restore-flood-affected-farmland>

Small Grants Programme – BBC Children in Need

The small grants programme is open to charities and not-for-profit organisations applying for any amount up to and including £10,000 per year for up to 3 years.

The programme seeks to support projects working with children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing disadvantage through:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

The programme aims to fund projects which make differences in children's lives that help prevent or overcome the effects of the disadvantages they face. Projects achieve these differences by either working directly with children or seeking to improve their social and physical environments.

The next deadline for applications is 2 December 2019.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/wWhd5lqf4RZ3xhL63G9Xmc/small-grants-what-you-need-to-know>

Positive Pathways Programme – Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Part of the Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, the Positive Pathways Programme will fund projects that develop and run activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of ex-forces. This programme is open to Armed Forces charities and CICs; and charities/CICs that have substantial experience in working with veterans. One-year grants of £35,000 and two-year grants of £70,000 are available. Projects must be activity based. This might be:

- sports
- arts/culture activities such as music or theatre
- getting outside, for example gardening activities
- heritage projects such as conservation or archaeology

The closing date for applications is 30 November 2019.

<https://www.covenantfund.org.uk/positive-pathways-programme/>

Community Business Trade Up programme – Power to Change

This programme is run by School for Social Entrepreneurs, in partnership with Power to Change. It is based on an innovative funding model where grant money of up to £10,000 is allocated in equal proportion to the additional income which your organisation can generate from trading. It is intended to help up to 80 community businesses across England.

A learning programme of 12 days spread over 9 months is also part of the programme or successful applicants.

The deadline for applications is 27 November 2019.

<https://www.powertochange.org.uk/get-support/programmes/community-business-trade/>

Transforming Places through Heritage Grants – Architectural Heritage Fund

This programme supports projects that will contribute to the transformation of high streets and town centres in England helping them become thriving places, strengthening local communities and encouraging local economies to prosper. It is part of a wider initiative to revive heritage high streets in England, alongside Historic England's High Street Heritage Action Zones. This programme is for individual heritage buildings in, or transferring to, community ownership. They will support charities and social enterprises to develop projects with the potential to bring new life to high streets by creating alternative uses for redundant or underused historic buildings in town centres.

A range of grants are available:

- Project Viability Grants: up to £15,000, for early viability and feasibility work, open now for applications.
- Project Development Grants: up to £100,000, for capital project development costs, open now for applications.
- Crowdfunding Challenge Grants: up to £25,000, to match fund crowdfunding campaigns, open now for applications.
- Transformational Project Grants: up to £350,000, for transformational capital projects. The deadline for applications was 30th September 2019. A second round is due to be announced in 2020.
- Community Shares Booster Grants: further info to be announced.

Applications requesting up to £15,000 need to apply by the last day of each calendar month. For grants over £15,000 the deadline for applications is 21 October 2019.

<http://ahfund.org.uk/england>

Places to Ride Programme – British Cycling

The Places to Ride programme will fund the development of new or the improvement of existing cycling facilities in communities across England.

The programme has been made possible through a new £15million commitment from Government and will be delivered over the next three years through a partnership of British Cycling, Sport England and the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

The aims of the programme are as follows:

- Encourage more people from a range of different backgrounds regardless of gender, age, ability or ethnicity to engage with cycling in all its forms. We want to provide more opportunities for people to enjoy riding in an accessible and inclusive environment; focusing especially on provision that responds to the needs of women and girls and people with a disability.
- Invest in opportunities that connect local communities and address barriers to engaging with cycling. Recognise the wider benefits of riding a bike to enable societal benefits such as community cohesion, reducing social isolation and promoting health and well-being through prevention.
- Ensure the delivery of a lasting legacy of active environments that provide high quality and affordable opportunities to engage with cycling now, that will continue to be deliverable in the future.

Applications can be made at any time and the closing date is 15 January 2021.

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/placestoride>

More than a Pub: The Community Pub Business Support Programme – Plunkett Foundation

Want to take ownership of your local pub and run it for the benefit of the community?
Need help getting it into community hands?

The More than a Pub programme provides business development support to enable the community ownership of pubs in both rural and urban communities across England. Funded by Power to Change and delivered by Plunkett Foundation, the second round of the programme builds upon the success of the first, which saw over 450 enquiries received from communities across England and saw 28 pubs open under community ownership. Support and funding is available to the community pub sector until September 2020.

<https://plunkett.co.uk/more-than-a-pub/>

Cornerstone, Gateway & Foundation Grants – National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust has three grant programmes currently open:

- **Cornerstone grants.** The Cornerstone Grant Programme offers grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 towards the cost of urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £100,000 including VAT. The Trust will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costed at more than £30,000 including VAT. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost. The next deadline for applications is 4 November 2019.
- **Gateway grants.** The Gateway Grant Programme offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 towards project development and investigative work up to RIBA planning stage 1, to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs for this phase. The next deadline for applications is 12 September 2019. Subsequent deadlines will be 9 January 2020 and 14 May 2020.
- **Foundation grants.** The Foundation Grant Programme will offer grants of between £500 and £3,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection or Survey Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should not exceed £10,000. The next deadline for applications is 23 January 2020.

<http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>

Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Full fibre broadband connections offer the fastest and most reliable speeds available and, as part of the government commitment to a vision of a full fibre Britain, in March 2018 they announced the £67m Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme.

Gigabit vouchers can be used by small businesses and the local communities surrounding them to contribute to the installation cost of a gigabit-capable connection. Businesses can claim up to £2,500 against the cost of connection either individually or as part of a group project. Residents can benefit from the scheme with a voucher worth £500 as part of a group project.

From May 2019, premises in the harder-to-reach places in the UK may be eligible for additional funding.

As part of the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme business and residents in some of the hardest-to-reach places in the UK are eligible for additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project.

Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 30Mbps can use vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and up to £1,500

per residential premise. to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections. This is subject to the eligibility rules.

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Better Broadband Voucher Scheme – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The Government has made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service so that browsing the web and keeping in touch with families and friends is easier.

The Better Broadband Scheme has been extended for a further year until 31st December 2019, ensuring that a subsidised basic broadband installation remains available to eligible applicants.

If you currently experience broadband speeds of less than 2 Megabits per second (Mbps), the Better Broadband Voucher Scheme may be able to help you access a basic broadband service that will offer download speeds of at least 10 Mbps.

The Better Broadband Voucher Scheme, developed by the UK government, provides a voucher worth up to £350 for basic broadband installation to homes and businesses that will not benefit from superfast broadband.

<https://basicbroadband.culture.gov.uk/>

Urban Tree Challenge Fund – Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission has launched the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, with grants available over the next two years to make urban areas (cities and towns) greener and help meet the government's target of planting one million urban trees by 2022.

The first year of the fund is now closed. In year two individual applications will be accepted for small, single planting sites, and prospective individual applicants can complete an expression of interest form to register interest in applying in 2020.

The fund provides up to 50% funding of standard costs for planting large and small trees and their establishment costs for three years following planting, such as the costs associated with buying a tree, planting it in a grass verge, basic protection and the labour required to plant it. Establishment payments will then support the cost of weeding, watering and checking trees during multiple visits over a three-year period.

Anyone is able to apply for the fund as long as they either have full management control over the land or signed consent from those who do for the duration of the agreement.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund>

Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding – Locality

You can apply for three types of grant funding if you are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan:

- **Basic Grant Funding:** All groups undertaking a neighbourhood plan are eligible to apply for up to £9,000 in basic grant. As well as applying for a basic grant, you can also apply for technical support (provided you meet the eligibility criteria) to help you with your neighbourhood plan.
- **Additional Grant Funding:** Groups meeting the eligibility criteria are able to apply for additional grant of up to £8,000 (in addition to the basic grant). This will take the total amount of grant available to you to £17,000.
- **Affordable Housing for Sale Grant Funding:** This is a new element to the programme and it is running as a pilot scheme and is available during 2019-20 in the first instance. If you are wishing to bring forward affordable housing for sale you may be eligible for further grant funding of up to £10,000 to help develop these ideas.

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/grant-funding/#affordablehousing>

Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund – Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

The Autumn 2018 budget announced that, to mark the centenary of the Armistice, government would support several initiatives, including making available grant funding to support improvement projects for village halls.

The grant funding will be managed by ACRE on behalf of Defra with support from the ACRE Network. The grant aims to help fund the updating and refurbishment of village halls so that they are fit for purpose and provide activities which seek to achieve one or more of the following outcomes for their communities:

- Improved health and wellbeing/reduction in loneliness
- Demonstrates a positive impact on the environment
- Supports the local rural economy

There will be greater emphasis given to applications who have already secured most of the funding.

The scheme will fund up to 20% of eligible costs, with a minimum grant of £10,000 and a maximum grant of £75,000 payable. This means overall scheme costs would be between £50,000 and £375,000.

<http://acre.org.uk/our-work/village-hall-improvement-grant%20fund>

Veterans' Community Centres – Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

This is a £3 million funding programme to fund renovations and improvements to veterans' community centres.

Grants of up to £30,000 are available. A small number of grants of up to £150,000 will be made to more complex projects.

The Veterans' Community Centres Programme is a specialist pot of funding. Applicants must be Armed Forces charities with an existing building that requires refurbishment.

Most grants will be for £30,000 or less. A small number of grants of up to £150,000 will be made to more complex projects. The deadline for applications is 4 November 2019.

<http://www.covenantfund.org.uk/veterans-community-centres/>

Open Grants Programme – The Clothworkers' Foundation

The Clothworkers' Foundation award grants to UK registered charities, CICs, and other registered UK not-for-profit organisations (including special schools). Grants are awarded towards capital projects which are defined as:

- Buildings (purchase, construction, renovation or refurbishment)
- Fittings, fixtures, and equipment
- Vehicles

Applications must fit within one of the main programme areas: alcohol & substance misuse; disadvantaged minority communities; disadvantaged young people; domestic & sexual abuse; homelessness; older people; people with disabilities; prisoners & ex-offenders; visual impairment.

<https://www.clothworkersfoundation.org.uk/what-we-fund/>

Church Conservation Grants – William and Jane Morris Fund

Grants between £500 and £5000 are awarded to churches, chapels and other places of worship in the United Kingdom for the conservation of decorative features and monuments, but not for structural repairs.

Grants will be awarded to support smaller programmes of work concerned with the conservation of decorative or non-structural features such as:

- stained glass windows
- sculpture

- furniture
- internal monuments and tombs
- wall paintings

The decorative feature, monument, etc must date from no later than 1896 (the year of William Morris's death). The next deadline for applications is 31 March 2020.

<https://www.sal.org.uk/grants/morris-fund-conservation-grants/>

Pebble Grants – The Rank Foundation

This is a funding stream for UK registered charities and recognised churches which are raising money for projects where the total cost is less than £1million. If you are raising money for a particular project for which the mainstay is capital costs (building work, refurbishment or the purchase of long-term equipment) or a one-off short-term activity (such as an annual respite break or holiday for disadvantaged young people) and have already raised a third of the total costs, you may be eligible for this.

The Rank Foundation are currently accepting applications for the November 2019 trustees' meeting.

<https://rankfoundation.com/pebble-grants/>

Funding for Community-led Homes

Together with the Confederation of Co-operative Housing, Locality and UK Cohousing, the National Community Land Trust Network have created 'Community Led Homes' to support their mission of making community led housing a mainstream housing option. Community Led Homes will provide training, funding and practical support to community led housing groups, councils and developers. This includes a summary of various forms of funding available which you can view on their website:

<https://www.communityledhomes.org.uk/>

New grants have been announced as follows:

1. Community-led Homes Start-up Support Programme: up to £10,000 revenue funding is available for early stage voluntary and community organisations exploring community-led housing. All funding must be committed by March 2020.
2. Community-led homes – becoming a Registered Provider / Investment Partner: aims to help community-led organisations progressing community-led projects to gain the support and funding they require to become a Registered Provider (RP) with the Regulator of Social Housing and/or an Investment Partner (IP) with Homes England. Up to £10,000 is available with applications accepted until mid-February 2020 or until all funding is committed, whichever is the sooner.
3. Homes in Community Hands Programme: operated by Power to Change, this programme will award grants averaging £50,000 to community led housing projects that will create schemes that deliver a majority of permanently affordable homes for rent or sale to locally connected people. These can be either as new build housing or by refurbishing empty properties. Funds will be largely focussed in Leeds City Region, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley City Region, the West of England and the West Midlands. Funds will also be available to genuinely innovative community led housing projects anywhere in England. Funding must be committed by December 2021.
4. Enabling Hub Grant Programme: funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, this programme aims to expand the network of Enabler Hubs - regional organisations supporting community led housing groups to deliver projects, particularly those likely to bid to Homes England for the Community Housing Fund. Development Grants up to £50,000 are available and Full Grants up to £150,000. The fund will remain open to applications from April 2019 until 31 December 2019.

Community Housing Fund – Homes England

The government is making available £163 million across England up to 2020 to 2021 through the Community Housing Fund. The Fund aims to support an increase in housing supply in England by increasing the number of additional homes delivered by the community-led housing sector; to provide housing that is affordable at local income levels and remains so in perpetuity; and to deliver a lasting legacy for the community-led housing sector in the form of an effective and financially self-sustaining body of expertise within the house building industry in England.

Under Phase One of the Fund, Homes England is making available grants to eligible organisations to support:

- applications for revenue funding for capacity building and predevelopment costs, including revenue grants to local authorities to support community groups
- capital bids for associated infrastructure costs which will support community housing development

Under Phase Two of the Fund Homes England is making available grants to eligible organisations to help cover the capital costs of acquiring land and building community-led housing schemes.

Both phases are now open.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-housing-fund>

Heritage Impact Fund – Architectural Heritage Fund

The HIF offers tailored finance for charities, social enterprises and community businesses across the UK to develop sustainable heritage at the very heart of vibrant local economies.

Loans from £25,000 to £500,000 are available for up to three years with tailored terms and both flexible and incentivised interest rates for impactful projects. These could include both capital and interest repayment holidays. HIF supports applicants across the UK who are undertaking a capital project or are looking to build upon or scale-up an existing enterprise.

The HIF is a joint initiative with contributions from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Cadw and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

<http://ahfund.org.uk/hif>

National Lottery Grants for Heritage – Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funds projects which focus on heritage. HLF state that heritage can mean different things to different people. It can be anything from the past that you value and want to pass on to future generations. As a guide, this could include:

- oral history
- cultural traditions
- nature
- natural and designed landscapes
- community archaeology
- historic buildings, monuments and environments
- collections of objects, books or documents in museums, libraries or archives
- histories of people and communities or places and events
- the heritage of languages and dialects
- places and objects linked to our industrial, maritime and transport history

Different grant bands have different criteria:

- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £3000 to £10,000 for projects up to one year in duration
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £10,000 to £100,000
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £100,000 to £250,000
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £250,000 to £5 million
- Heritage Horizon Awards: grants of £5 million and over

There are no application deadlines for applications up to £100,000. Quarterly deadlines apply for applications over £100,000. For Heritage Horizon Awards the deadline for submission of an expression of interest is 11 October 2019.

The amounts available depend on the type of organisation applying as follows:

- Non-profits and partnerships led by non-profit organisations: £3,000 to £5million
- Private owners of heritage: up to £100,000
- Partnerships led by commercial organisations (for the purposes of achieving economic growth): £250,000 - £5m

A new funding portfolio was launched in January 2019. For information on all HLF programmes visit the website.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust was set up in 1998, to promote and support charities in the United Kingdom working in agriculture, rural development and insurance.

The Trust focuses on providing funding to larger initiatives, which would have a significant impact on the rural community. The Trustees are particularly interested in initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas. Grants are available between £1000 and £50,000.

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications received. These meetings are currently held in June and November. Applications for the November meeting must be submitted by 1st November 2019.

<https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/>

Coalfields Community Investment Programme – Coalfields Regeneration Trust

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme (England) Funding Support element is a £500,000 fund created to support activities that tackle some of the key challenges that still remain in coalfield communities.

The fund is open to projects that deliver in the top 30% most deprived coalfield communities and that will make a positive difference in addressing the following themes:

- Skills: Growing the skills of people in order to increase their opportunities
- Employment: Developing pathways to increase the number of people in work
- Health: Supporting projects that increase participation in activities/services that improve the health and wellbeing of people in former coalfield communities.

The total fund value of £500,000 will be committed over the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 at four decision making Committees which will take place quarterly (£125,000 allocated to each Committee).

Demand is envisaged to be highly competitive and based on the 2017/18 programme, the number of successful awards was 22% of all applications received.

The next eligibility survey closes on 29 November and the deadline for applications is 13 December 2019.

<https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/funding>

Improving community spaces loans – Co-op Foundation

Interest free loans are available for enterprising ideas to improve community spaces. Places and spaces for people to come together and enjoy shared interests are vitally important for building stronger communities. Venues such as parks and community centres need regular income so they can continue to meet the needs of people who use them, love them, and rely on them for local services and social contact.

If your community organisation is thinking about growing its trading activities to generate more sustainable income, the Co-op Foundation might be able to help your plans take off. They offer:

- Interest-free loans of up to £50,000 towards viable business ideas that will benefit the whole community – particularly those facing greater challenges.
- No repayments for the first year, while your trading activities are developing
- If you are based in a more deprived area, or your work mainly benefits more disadvantaged members of the community, we might also be able to offer some grant funding alongside a loan

<https://blog.coopfoundation.org.uk/index.php/2018/05/17/community-is-everybodys-business/>

First Steps Enterprise Fund – Asda Foundation

First Steps Enterprise Fund (FSEF) is a £300,000 pilot fund to support community organisations. The Social Investment Business manage this fund on behalf of the Asda Foundation.

Funding is available for community organisations (charities and social enterprises) based in England that are looking to take on their first loan to help them grow and become more sustainable. Particular preference is given to organisations that work in the following areas:

- Older people
- Health and wellbeing
- Employment for young people

Funding packages of up to £30,000 are available (90% loan and 10% grant). The loan element is charged at 5% (fixed) to be repaid over a period of 4 years with an optional capital holiday for the first year. Up to £50,000 is available for exceptional cases.

<https://www.sibgroup.org.uk/firststeps>

Energy Redress Scheme – Energy Saving Trust

Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments from energy companies who may have breached rules. The funds can pay for anything from making a home more energy efficient, to providing advice that helps consumers keep on top of their bills.

Energy Saving Trust has developed an open application process for charities seeking funding from the Energy Redress Scheme. Successful projects will be selected with input from an independent panel of experts and could cover a range of locations across England, Scotland and Wales.

The amount of funding available through the scheme varies throughout the year and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis in October, January, April and July. Eligible charities that have registered interest in the scheme will be notified when funds become available.

The minimum grant that can be requested is £20,000 and the maximum amount is the lesser of £2 million or the total value of the current fund.

The scheme can fund projects lasting up to two years, can fund 100 per cent of the project cost and can cover revenue and capital measures.

<https://energyredress.org.uk/apply-funding>

Cultural Impact Development Fund

This £3.7 million fund provides small-scale repayable finance to socially-driven arts and cultural organisations. The Fund is supported by Access – The Foundation for Social Investment through the Growth Fund programme, with finance being provided by its partners Big Lottery Fund and Big Society Capital.

The aims of the fund are to:

- Enable risk-taking, ambitious organisations in the arts and cultural sector to take on small-scale repayable finance in order to achieve social outcomes;
- Increase the capability of arts and cultural organisations to articulate, achieve, monitor and evaluate their intended social impact.

The Fund offers unsecured loans (and revenue participation agreements, where appropriate) between £25,000 and £150,000 with repayment terms of one to five years and interest rates ranging between 5.5% and 8.5%.

The investment window is open until August 2021.

<https://www.artsculturefinance.org/our-funds/cultural-impact-development-fund/>

Emergency Essentials Programme – BBC Children in Need

Family Fund Business Services are working in collaboration with BBC Children in Need to deliver the Emergency Essentials programme supporting children and young people living with severe poverty as well as additional pressures such as domestic violence, disability or poor health in the family.

The programme can deliver or fund critical items such as:

- Gas or electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children’s beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations.

Applications must be completed by a registered referrer who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs.

<https://www.familyfundserves.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

Community Asset Fund – Sport England

Whether it’s the park you run through, the hall you do classes in or the pitch you play on, welcoming and accessible spaces have a big impact on a person’s experience – and likelihood of coming back.

As part of this, Sport England have produced a guide and accompanying document to explain more about the new Community Asset Fund, how and why they’re doing things differently, when they will make decisions plus tips and advice for developing your project or idea.

Sports clubs and community organisations can now apply for investment from the Community Asset Fund – Sport England’s new capital fund dedicated to enhancing the spaces in local communities that give people the opportunity to be active.

This fund will have a value of £15 million per annum with the anticipated size of bids between £1000 and £150,000. There is no deadline to apply.

<https://www.sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund/>

Reaching Communities England – National Lottery Community Fund

The Reaching Communities programme aims to make positive change in communities. Big Lottery particularly want to hear about ideas that support:

- Lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces
- Communities to develop happier and stronger relationships with each other

- Taking action to focus on the root causes of social problems to tackle them at the earliest possible stage

Through Reaching Communities funding you can apply for between £10,000 and £500,000. Successful grant can fund some or all of the costs associated with delivering a project, including staff salaries, training, volunteer expenses, management costs, equipment, premises costs, monitoring and evaluation and overheads. The programme can also fund up to £100,000 for small scale capital work, such as refurbishment, the purchase of vehicles, land or buildings.

Big Lottery encourage applicants to contact them before applying for additional advice and support before you submit your application.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england>

Awards for All England – National Lottery Community Fund

National Lottery Awards for All offers funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities. You can apply if your organisation is a:

- voluntary or community organisation
- registered charity
- constituted group or club
- not-for-profit company or community interest company
- social enterprise
- school
- statutory body (including town, parish and community council).

National Lottery Awards for All has three funding priorities. Applications must meet at least one of them. The priorities are:

- bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities
- improving the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

This is an open programme. Applications can be made at any time.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england>

Partnerships – National Lottery Community Fund

Through partnerships funding, Big Lottery aim to make grants available over £10,000 for organisations who share responsibility and influence with others, who have a shared set of goals and values, and achieve their mission by starting with the bigger picture rather than just what their organisation can do on its own.

Grants are awarded for up to five years and we can fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. The three funding priorities are:

- bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/partnerships-england>

Community Centres & Village Halls grants – Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Trusthouse is interested in applications for capital projects at community centres in the most deprived urban areas and village halls in remote and economically deprived rural areas.

The Foundation wants to support community centres and village halls which are at the heart of small, deprived communities. They expect that you will be providing a range of activities for all ages and abilities which help to promote community cohesion and address local problems of isolation, poverty, lack of local facilities, transport and other issues of relevance to your area.

They interpret 'community centres' in the broad sense, so you might be a church, sports facility or other building which offers a range of activities throughout the week which all the community can access.

The Foundation will consider applications for new buildings; upgrading, renovating or extending buildings; improving or creating outside space (but not car parks). You will need to have secured a minimum of 50% of the costs of the project before you start an application.

<http://trushousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/grants/community-centres-and-village-halls/>

HS2 Community and Business Funds – Groundwork UK

Two funds are available to local communities to help with the disruption that will be caused by the construction of Phase one of HS2 between London and the West Midlands; the Community and Environment Fund and the Business and Local Economy Fund. The objective of these funds is to add benefit, over and above committed mitigation and statutory compensation, to communities and local economies along the route.

The administration of these funds is managed on behalf of HS2 Ltd by the charity Groundwork who will ensure both funds remain available for applications throughout the construction of Phase One.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/hs2funds>

Community Shares Booster Programme – Power to Change

The Community Shares Booster Programme is a funding scheme to support community share offers. It will invest equity up to £100,000 to match community shares in societies that can demonstrate higher than average levels of community impact, innovation and engagement. The programme will also provide development grants of up to £10,000 to help societies get investment ready and meet standards of good practice. Match funding will be in the form of equity held on equal terms with other community shareholders.

Power to Change has provided £3m funding for the Booster Programme over a five-year period from 2017-22. The programme is expected to match fund around 60 share offers in the first three years of the programme (to 2020) and then provide active investor support to societies on a continuing basis. The programme is run by the Community Shares Unit, a joint initiative between Co-operatives UK and Locality.

The Community Shares Unit was established in 2012, since when there have been over 350 community share offers in the UK, raising more than £120m in share capital from over 100,000 people. Community shares are defined as non-transferable, withdrawable shares in an asset locked society that has at least 20 member-shareholders and £10,000 in share capital.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

<https://www.communitysharesbooster.org.uk/how-it-works>

BlueSpark Foundation grants

Schools, colleges and community groups in England can apply for grants to Blue Spark Foundation for a wide range of projects. The Foundation value academic, vocational, artistic and sporting endeavour in equal measure but are particularly keen to support projects which will help enhance the self-confidence, team working skills and future employability of children and young people.

Many grants will be under £2,000, most will be under £5,000 and only in a few cases will grants exceed £10,000.

Projects which could be supported include drama, music, sport, art and design, debating, public speaking, academic education, vocational training, community projects, enterprise projects and educational excursions. This list is illustrative and not exclusive as to the types of project that the Foundation support.

<http://bluesparkfoundation.org.uk/>

Website Grants – Transform Foundation

Transform Foundation provide funding of up to £18,000 to cover the strategy, design, build, content strategy, training, QA and launch of a new mobile optimised website, with sophisticated marketing, fundraising, appeals, social media, e-commerce and website management tools. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

The grant covers 100% of the website design and build costs with the Foundation's current grant partner. Applicant organisations will need to cover ongoing costs for a minimum of a 12 month commitment

They are specifically targeting small and midsize charities – generally with an income between £350k and £30M a year.

<https://www.transformfoundation.org.uk/website-grants>

Family Fund – The Family Fund Trust for families with severely disabled children.

The Family Fund helps families across the UK who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under. You can apply to Family Fund subject to a number of criteria which include that you are the parent or carer of a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under and that you have evidence of entitlement to one of the following: Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, Housing Benefit and Pension Credit.

See the website for more details.

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Landfill Communities Fund – SUEZ Communities Trust

SUEZ Communities Trust (formerly SITA) provides funding awards of up to £50,000 to not-for-profit organisations to undertake work that is eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). Applications are considered for three areas of work which qualify for funding through the LCF. These include:

- Public Amenities
- Historic Buildings, Structures or Sites
- Biodiversity

Projects can be supported that make physical improvements at sites located in any of 100 funding zones around qualifying sites owned by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK.

<http://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/>

European Structural and Investment Funds – Department for Communities and Local Government

A variety of funds under the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) are currently available in different parts of the country. ESIF includes money from the European Social Fund (ESF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Deadlines for applications vary. Please see the website below for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds>

Tesco Community Grants – Tesco and Groundwork

Groundwork is working with Tesco on three local community grant schemes, where the money raised from plastic carrier bag sales is being used to fund thousands of local projects in communities right across the UK.

Projects that bring benefit to their community will get the green light – these range from improving community buildings and outdoor spaces to buying new equipment, training coaches or volunteers, and hosting community events.

There are currently three grant schemes covering different sizes of projects and parts of the country:

- Tesco Bags of Help, which provides grants of up to £4,000 to projects in England, Wales and Scotland
- Tesco Bags of Help Centenary Grants, which provides funding of up to £25,000 to projects that have a significant regional impact in England, Scotland and Wales
- The Tesco Centenary Fund which provides grants of up to £50,000 to projects that have a significant regional impact in Northern Ireland

<https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/>

Home Building Fund – Homes & Communities Agency

The government has created a £3 billion fund “to increase the number of homes built in England.” You can apply if you’re a private sector business that builds new homes or prepares sites for housing developments. This includes small builders, community builders, custom builders and regeneration specialists, as well as larger builders and developers.

The fund provides development finance and infrastructure finance via loans. More information on how the fund works and who can apply is available in ‘An Introduction to the Home Building Fund’ which you can access via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/homebuildingfund>

Premier League Fans Fund Small Grants Scheme – Football

The Small Grants Scheme aims to encourage and allow a broad variety of groups and projects to be funded. The Small Grants Scheme offers grants of up to £20,000 for projects that look to address the Scheme’s aims.

Projects that strengthen the relationship between professional clubs and their fans will be favoured. Applications are accepted at any time.

<http://www.fsif.co.uk/funding/fans-fund-small-grants-scheme/>

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants – Arts Council England

Grants of between £1000 and £100,000 are available for eligible individuals, organisations, libraries and museums for a range of activities including: Audio-visual, broadcast and transmission, buildings and infrastructure, capacity building, commissioning, digital creation, diversity and equality, education and learning, exhibition, festival, organisational development, original work, participation, performance, production, professional development, publishing, research and development, sector development, talent development and touring.

This is a rolling programme with no deadlines.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants>

Help the Homeless grants

Help The Homeless makes grants to charitable organisations with the aim of helping homeless people return to the community and enabling them to resume a normal life.

Grants are available to small and medium-sized charitable organisations to fund the capital costs of projects with grants of up to £5,000. The quarterly deadlines for grant applications each year are: 15 March, 15 June, 15 September and 15 December.

<http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/>

Grants for War Memorials – War Memorials Trust

War Memorials Trust administers a number of grants schemes which between them cover the whole of the UK. Currently programme funders include the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Historic England, Historic Scotland and War Memorials Trust. Grants are currently available up to 75% of eligible costs with a normal maximum grant of £30,000.

War Memorials Trust seeks to help all war memorial custodians, whatever the nature and size of their war memorial by facilitating repair and conservation projects.

Annual deadlines are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December.

<http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund – Football Foundation

The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing pavilions and playing surfaces for community benefit, with money provided by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England) and delivered by the Foundation. The Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations and gives grants for projects that:

- Improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities.
- Sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age, or ability.
- Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

Grants are available for between £10,000 and £500,000.

<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>

Prepared by Andy Dean, Assistant Director at the Rural Services Network

Email: andy.dean@sparse.gov.uk

The Rural Services Network is an organisation comprising 150 local authorities and 100 other public service providers seeking to establish links across public service, identifying and broadcasting best practice, and making representations on rural service issues. For details please go to our website rsnonline.org.uk